(b) if so, the decision, if any, taken in the matter;

(c) whether Government would consider including the above agricultural commodities under the coverage of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Crops like coconut, arecanut and rubber have not been covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) mainly on account of non-availability of adequate past yield data and because of the difficulty in assessing the yield due to the multi-picking nature of these crops.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Success of BT. Cotton

1332. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the success of Bt. Cotton yield with respect to different regions and cotton producing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a number of strands and sub-generation of Bt. cotton seeds have been developed by farmer in Gujarat and other States; if so, what steps have been taken to examine the same, as to their safety, vulnerability to pests and impact on soil and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has reported that the Bt. cotton hybrids registered reduction in spray from 2 to 6 sprays across the States, with yield advantage of 2 to 4 quintals per hectare.

(c) The Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prohibit the manufacture of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). The Government of Gujarat has been advised to take appropriate action against the manufacturers of spurious Bt. cotton seeds under the above rules and the seeds legislation.

Subsidies to farmers in developed countries

†1333. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of subsidy being given to the farmers in the developed countries of the world is adversely affecting Indian agriculture products;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have made any effort in this regard under WTO during the last years; and

(d) if so, the details of such efforts, when they were made and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The continued high level of domestic support and export subsidies given to the farmers in the developed countries denies meaningful market access to the developing countries and depresses the international prices of subsidized agricultural products. In order to ensure that Indian farmers are not put to any hardship, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the Indian farmers through various measures, including appropriate calibrations of applied tariffs within bound levels, recourse to trade remedies, and Government support consistent with World Trade Organization (W.T.O.).

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.